

REMARKS

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,797,875 to Silver ("Silver '875"). The action also rejects the claim based on a provisional, nonstatutory double patenting rejection based on claim in a co-pending application owned by the same assignee (Medela Holding AG) as the present application.

Applicant will address the provisional rejection after the present claim is found to be in condition for allowance.

With respect to the rejection under §102(b), for Silver to anticipate the current claim, each and every limitation of the claim must be shown in Silver. The claim has been amended to clarify that the one or more channels communicate between said port and with an opening in said rim portion of the female coupling component. The opening (63) cited in the action does not involve a female coupling component of the Silver '875 device, but rather communicates between the housing (46) internal chamber and the outside of the housing directly through the housing. Thus, the opening cited in the action does not meet the limitations of present Claim 1.

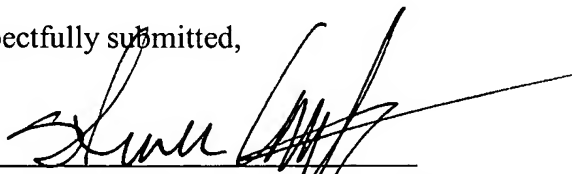
The stopper (70) cited in the action from Silver '875 does not meet the claimed requirement of being sized and shaped to sealable engage an upper portion of a female coupling component as required in the present claim. The stopper (70) of Silver '875, in contrast, is a selector ring receivable in a snug but rotatable fit around the collar (53) of the housing 46 (See Fig. 2 and col. 4, lines 52-60). In contrast, the stopper of the present claim is adapted to fit directly into the female coupling component (e.g., 42 in Fig. 2 of the present application).

Because Silver '875 does not meet each and every limitation of the present claim, it cannot anticipate the presently claimed invention. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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